

Testimony

Presented By: Lenora Hardy-Foster, Judson Center Oakland County

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Presented To: Senate Oversight Committee

Subject: Senate Bills 529 and 530

Judson Center has been a part of the fabric of our community for over 93 years. We started out as an orphanage in 1924 and stayed true to our roots as we still help children. Today's Judson Center is a multi-faceted human services agency that has evolved to help meet the needs of our community in five regional counties, Genesee, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne. We impact nearly 7,000 lives through innovative and quality programming within our four core services: Autism Connections, Child & Family Services, Disability Services and Mental Health Services.

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES - Nearly 13,000 children in Michigan's foster care system, with 300 waiting to be adopted. We serve **1800 children and families** annually through our continuum of Child Welfare programs serving children and families in twenty five Michigan counties, in addition to serving children statewide through the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange program.

DISABILITY SERVICES - Providing services to adults and children through distinct services.

- Vocational Services- Community based skill building, job coaching and job placement services to approximately 300 adults with developmental disabilities.
- Children's Respite Care- 24 hour center-based care for children and youth with developmental disabilities serving nearly 100 children annually.

MENTAL HEALTH - Approximately **900 children and adults** are served through our Mental Health Services Outpatient and Home-Based programs annually that are offered in three counties and funded through the commercial insurance and local County Community Mental Health.

AUTISM CONNECTIONS - Provides autism services to approximately 125 children and youth annually consisting of Applied Behavior Analysis, Social Skills Groups and Family Support Services in Royal Oak and Ann Arbor

Foster Care County Payment Challenges – Judson Center continues to experience significant delays in receiving reimbursements for services provided which impacts our ability to manage the program effectively, generates cash flow problems and puts undue stress on the program and financial staff that are tracking and following up on outstanding payments. Staff time should be spent on providing quality services to children and families. We support the "State Pays First Model".